

## SOME LOCAL NAMES OF PLANTS—IV.\*

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Until some very favorably circumstanced individual or institution undertakes the task, the compilation of vernacular names of American plants will continue to be woefully incomplete and correspondingly unsatisfactory. The project is dual, involving the compilation of published, and the collection of unpublished names. Publications that must be searched include those of the early writers who customarily devoted some space to plants, general works on natural history, sporting books, plant manuals, local lists, works on medical botany, ethnobotany, and pharmacology, botanical journals, and special articles on plants in other periodicals. Other special sources of local plant names are lists of honey plants and of food plants of insects other than bees, and publications on range and poisonous plants.

The sources of unpublished plant names are even more numerous and inaccessible and the exploring of them still more time-consuming. Unhurried travel and careful inquiry in characteristic areas, especially isolated ones, is necessary to achievement of a reasonable degree of completion. Labels in herbaria are a profitable hunting ground for the searcher for unusual appellations and no doubt botanical diaries and correspondence of historical value could be examined to advantage. The supply of names is inexhaustible and the ways in which they reach the compiler surprisingly diverse.

The task of collating them is a tremendous one which the present writer can not undertake because he is engaged on a similar compilation of the names of American birds. He enjoys contributing to the subject, however, and hopes his contributions will interest others, among them, possibly one or more who will compile a real dictionary of these terms.

The present contribution consists of a small collection of names not found in current glossaries, and a short bibliography restricted to publications, dealing specifically with American plant names.

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## PLANT NAMES

## CHARACEAE

1. *Chara* sp.—Featherbeds, Susquehanna River, Pa. (Forest and Stream, Feb. 1890, p. 104).

## ZANNICHELLIACEAE

2. *Potamogeton perfoliatus* L.—Turkle (turtle) grass, Ragged Id., Back Bay, Va. (C. C. Sperry).  
 3. *Potamogeton pectinatus* L.—Old-fashioned bay-grass, Ragged Id., Back Bay, Va. (C. C. Sperry).

## NAIADACEAE

4. *Naias guadalupensis* Spreng.—Gray duck moss, Mississippi Delta, La. (C. C. Sperry).

## HYDROCHARITACEAE

5. *Limnobium spongia* Bosc.—Horse-shoe, Florence, La. (C. C. Sperry).

## POACEAE

6. *Erianthus tracyi* Nash.—Cat-tail, Port Gibson, Miss. (E. G. Holt).  
 7. *Paspalum dilatatum* Poir.—Crow-foot, Morton, Miss. (E. G. Holt).  
 8. *Panicum hemitomum* Schult.—Paille fine (pyfeen), Vermillion Parish, La. (C. C. Sperry).  
 9. *Panicum flexile* Gattinger.—Petticoat grass, Morton, Miss. (E. G. Holt).  
 10. *Panicum virgatum* L.—Johnson Grass, Mississippi Delta, La. (C. C. Sperry).  
 At this same locality the writer had *Panicum repens* L. pointed out as Johnson grass; probably the name is applied to almost any robust grass resembling the cultivated bearer of this name, that is *Sorghum halepense*.  
 11. *Chaetochloa glauca* L.—Cat-tail, Morton, Miss. (E. G. Holt).  
 12. *Zizania aquatica* L.—Zimosa (Roosevelt, R. B., Florida and the Game Water-birds of the Atlantic Coast, etc., 1884, p. 324).  
 13. *Scolochloa festucacea* Willd.—Hollow-stem, Rugby, N. Dak. (O. A. Stevens).

## CYPERACEAE

14. *Scirpus robustus* Pursh.—Wild chufa, McClellanville, S. C. (L. A. Beckmann).  
 15. *Mariscus jamaicensis* Crantz.—Redtop grass, McClellanville, S. C. (L. A. Beckmann).

## MELANTHACEAE

16. *Veratrum speciosum* Rydberg.—Skunk-weed, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

## MYRICACEAE

17. *Myrica* spp.—Sweet myrtle, Sapelo Id., Ga.

## FAGACEAE

18. *Quercus gambelii* Nuttall.—White oak, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

## NELUMBONACEAE

19. *Nelumbo lutea* Willd.—Graine a voler, Monaca nut (Bul. 10, Louisiana Dept. Conservation, 1921, p. 58).

## CERATOPHYLLACEAE

20. *Ceratophyllum demersum* L.—Nigger wool, Mississippi Delta, La. (C. C. Sperry).

## LAURACEAE

21. *Persea pubescens* Pursh.—Sweet bay, Sapelo Id., Ga.

## BRASSICACEAE

22. *Cheirinia asperrima* Greene.—Wild mustard, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

## HYDRANGEACEAE

23. *Hydrangea quercifolia* Bartram.—Seven-bark, Pickens, Miss. (E. G. Holt),

## ROSACEAE

24. *Chamaebatia foliolosa* Benth.—Bear clover, Sequoia National Park, Calif., (C. Hart Merriam); mountain misery, Placerville, Calif. (C. Barlow, Condor, 3. p. 152, Nov. 1901).

## MALACEAE

25. *Amelanchier* spp.—Wild pear, Mt. Desert, Me.

## AMYGDALACEAE

26. *Laurocerasus caroliniana* Mill.—Wild olive, Sapelo Id., Ga.

## MIMOSACEAE

27. *Acacia greggi* Gray.—Cat's-claw, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

## FABACEAE

28. *Glottidium vesicarium* Jacq.—Snake bean, Sapelo Id., Ga.

29. *Erythrina herbacea* L.—Cherokee, Sapelo Id., Ga. At this locality the root of the plant has a reputation as a tonic, and is called man-root, or woman-root, according to the sex of the person seeking it.

## EUPHORBIACEAE

30. *Cnidoscolus stimulosus* Michx.—Nettle, Jekyl Id., Ga.

## ANACARDIACEAE

31. *Rhus copallina* L.—Shoemaker berry, Sapelo Id., Ga.; sourball bush, Jekyl Id., Ga.

32. *Rhus trilobata* Nuttall.—Skunk-brush, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

## AQUIFOLIACEAE

33. *Ilex vomitoria* Ait.—Tea tree, Beaufort, N. C. (Roosevelt, R. B., Florida, etc., 1884, p. 44); Christmas bush, Sapelo Id., Ga.; Christmas berry, Jekyl Id., Ga.

## RHAMNACEAE

34. *Ceanothus fendleri* Gray.—Buck-brush, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

35. *Ceanothus prostratus* Benth.—Squaw-carpet, Sequoia National Park, Calif (C. Hart Merriam).

36. *Ceanothus velutinus* Dougl.—Deer-brush, Placerville, Calif. (C. Barlow, Condor, 3, p. 152, Nov. 1901).

#### OPUNTIACEAE

37. *Opuntia pes-corvi* Le Conte.—Nigger-toes, Sapelo Id., Ga.; Jo-jumper, Jekyl Id., Ga.

#### ELAEAGNACEAE

38. *Lepargyrea argentea* Nutt.—Bull-brush, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

#### ARALIACEAE

39. *Aralia spinosa* L.—Devil's walking-stick, Sapelo Id., Ga.

#### ERICACEAE

40. *Bejaria racemosa* Vent.—Flycatcher, Jekyl Id., Ga.

41. *Chiogenes hispidula* L.—Tea berry, Grand Manan, N. B. (S. F. Cheney); snake berry, Mt. Desert, Me.

42. *Arbutus texana* Buckl.—Called Palo enquerado (naked tree) by the Mexicans, and slick tree by the Americans, Tough, Tex. (Wm. Lloyd).

43. *Batodendron arboreum* Marsh.—Parker berry, "only the negroes call it sparkle berry," said my informant, Sapelo Id., Ga.

#### SAPOTACEAE

44. *Bumelia* spp.—Sloe, black sloe, Sapelo Id., Ga.

#### OLEACEAE

45. *Adelia pubescens* Nuttall.—Buck-brush, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

#### POLEMONIACEAE

46. *Polemonium acutiflorum* Ledeb.—Skunk-weed, Unalakleet, Alaska (H. W. Johnston).

#### SCROPHULARIACEAE

47. *Monniera monniera* L.—Alligator grass, Mississippi Delta, La. (C. C. Sperry).

#### RUBIACEAE

48. *Galium* spp.—Chicken-weed, because small chickens get caught in it, Seven Locks, Md. (Chas. Stewart).

49. *Mitchella repens* L.—Turkey berry, Morton, Miss. (E. G. Holt).

#### AMBROSIACEAE

50. *Ambrosia trifida* L.—Bloodweed, Natchez, Miss. (E. G. Holt).

51. *Iva* spp.—Salt-water myrtle, to distinguish it from the sweet myrtle (*Myrica*), Sapelo Id., Ga.

#### CARDUACEAE

52. *Eupatorium capillifolium* Lam.—Yankee weed, Baton Rouge, La. (O. W. Rosewall, Ent. News, 35, No. 10, Dec. 1924, p. 370).

53. *Chrysothamnus* sp.—Chamis, Graham Mts., Ariz. (E. G. Holt).

54. *Baccharis* spp.—Salt water myrtle, Sapelo Id., Ga. See note under No. 51

with which it shares this name. The two plants are confused under other appellations also, as salt-water bush, and high-tide bush.

55. *Bidens involucrata* Nutt.—Nigger-head, Pickens, Miss. (E. G. Holt).

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## THE SUPPOSED FOSSIL OPHIOGLOSSUM

T. D. A. COCKERELL

In TORREYA, vol. 24, p. 10, I described a supposed fossil *Ophioglossum* from the Eocene of Wyoming, naming it *O. hastatiforme*. The specific name had reference to the resemblance to a spear-head, not to the conventional term hastate. In TORREYA of the same year, p. 49, Dr. E. W. Berry stated that the plant was by no means an *Ophioglossum*, but was in fact a *Danaea*, belonging to the species *D. coloradensis* Knowlton, described from the Green River shales of Colorado. This led to a lengthy correspondence with Dr. Knowlton, Dr. W. R. Maxon and Dr. Marshall A. Howe, out of which certain results have emerged, showing that the whole matter needs reconsideration. The facts and probabilities are as follows:

- (1) The fossil is assuredly not an *Ophioglossum*.
- (2) Still less is it a *Danaea*. Dr. Maxon kindly loaned me excellent *Danaea* material for comparison.
- (3) The fragment described by Knowlton (1923) as *Danaea coloradensis* is apparently a different thing, and in the absence of proof to the contrary, is to be retained in *Danaea*. I have not seen it.